

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A distributor unit for cooperation with a transmission cylinder on which travels a web-shaped material which has to receive a substance, the distributor unit having an operator side and a transmission side, the distributor unit comprising:

a reservoir containing the liquid substance;

an anilox cylinder;

a cliché cylinder onto which is movably fitted a cliché jacket, said reservoir, said anilox cylinder and said cliché cylinder being movable from and to said transmission cylinder;

an operator side support holding said anilox cylinder;

an operator side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a locking device for locking said cliché cylinder in a cantilever position in a substitution state when said corresponding cliché jacket has to be substituted, said locking device being associated with said transmission side support of said cliché cylinder, said operator side support of said cliché cylinder comprising a first element and a second element automatically movable from and to said cliché cylinder, said first and second elements holding said anilox cylinder on said operator side in a use state and said first and second elements are reciprocally spaced disengaging said operator side of said cliché cylinder in said substitution state;

an actuator associated with said second element for controlling movement of said second element from and to said axis of said cliché cylinder, said second element comprising a stop for limiting a movement of the distributor unit towards the transmission cylinder; and

an elastic means interposed between said an appendix of said first element and said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

12. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said distributor unit comprises a color unit for printing machines and said the substance contained in said reservoir comprises an ink.

13. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein the substance contained in said reservoir comprises a glue.

14. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein the substance contained in said reservoir is a softening liquid.

15. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said first element is linked to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder by a linkage, whereby motion of said operator side support of said anilox cylinder causes movement of said first element.

16. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 15, wherein said linkage between said

first element and operator side support of said anilox cylinder comprises a lateral rigid appendix of said first element, said appendix being connected to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

17. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said first and second elements are disposed on opposite sides in respect to said cliché cylinder.

18. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder and said transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder are independent from each other and respectively provided with an elastic stop and with a rigid stop.

19. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said first element is provided with a concavity facing said cliché cylinder.

20. (New) A distributor unit for cooperation with a transmission cylinder on which travels a web-shaped material which has to receive a substance, the distributor unit having an operator side and a transmission side, the distributor unit comprising:

a reservoir containing the liquid substance;

an anilox cylinder;

a cliché cylinder onto which is movably fitted a cliché jacket, said reservoir, said anilox

cylinder and said cliché cylinder being movable from and to said transmission cylinder;

an operator side support holding said anilox cylinder;

an operator side support holding said cliché cylinder;

10 a transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a locking device for locking said cliché cylinder in a cantilever position in a substitution state when said corresponding cliché jacket has to be substituted, said locking device being associated with said transmission side support of said cliché cylinder, said operator side support
15 of said cliché cylinder comprising a first element and a second element automatically movable from and to said cliché cylinder, said first and second elements holding said anilox cylinder on said operator side in a use state and said first and second elements are reciprocally spaced disengaging said operator side of said cliché cylinder in said substitution state;

an actuator associated with said second element for controlling movement of said
20 second element from and to said axis of said cliché cylinder, said second element comprising a stop for limiting a movement of the distributor unit towards the transmission cylinder, said first element being linked to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder by a linkage whereby motion of said operator side support of said anilox cylinder causes movement of said first element.

21. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said linkage between said first element and operator side support of said anilox cylinder comprises a lateral rigid appendix

of said first element, said appendix being connected to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

22. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, further comprising:

an elastic means interposed between said an appendix of said first element and said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

23. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said first and second elements are disposed on opposite sides in respect to said cliché cylinder.

24. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder and said transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder are independent from each other and respectively provided with an elastic stop and with a rigid stop.

25. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said first element is provided with a concavity facing said cliché cylinder.

26. (New) A distributor unit for cooperation with a transmission cylinder on which travels a web-shaped material which has to receive a substance, the distributor unit having an operator side and a transmission side, the distributor unit comprising:

a reservoir containing the liquid substance;

5 an anilox cylinder;

a cliché cylinder onto which is movably fitted a cliché jacket, said reservoir, said anilox cylinder and said cliché cylinder being movable from and to said transmission cylinder;

an operator side support holding said anilox cylinder;

an operator side support holding said cliché cylinder;

10 a transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a locking device for locking said cliché cylinder in a cantilever position in a substitution state when said corresponding cliché jacket has to be substituted, said locking device being associated with said transmission side support of said cliché cylinder, said operator side support of said cliché cylinder comprising a first element and a second element automatically movable from and to said cliché cylinder, said first and second elements holding said anilox cylinder on said operator side in a use state and said first and second elements are reciprocally spaced disengaging said operator side of said cliché cylinder in said substitution state;

an actuator associated with said second element for controlling movement of said second element from and to said axis of said cliché cylinder, said second element comprising a stop for limiting a movement of the distributor unit towards the transmission cylinder, wherein said transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder and said transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder are independent from each other and respectively provided with an elastic stop and with a rigid stop.

27. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 26, wherein said first element is linked to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder by a linkage, whereby motion of said operator side support of said anilox cylinder causes movement of said first element.

28. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 27, wherein said linkage between said first element and operator side support of said anilox cylinder comprises a lateral rigid appendix of said first element, said appendix being connected to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

29. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, further comprising:
an elastic means interposed between said an appendix of said first element and said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

30. (New) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said first and second elements are disposed on opposite sides in respect to said cliché cylinder and said first element is provided with a concavity facing said cliché cylinder.